

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 24, 2001 LB 313

concern really is the budget impact, the \$5 million. And I tend to agree with the incentive of the districts. I think the unification issue is an important one. I think helping, to some degree, is useful, I think we should do it. But I am concerned about the \$5 million impact; it's not insignificant. We're very early in the session at this point to know, I'm certain the logic can be to put it on the agenda and get it through until I want to say the tenth of May, when it takes its place among all the other appropriations bills. And perhaps that's the logic. But \$5 million this year is significant, you know, and actually it's in the second year is the way I understood it; \$3 million covers the first year, we're talking about \$5 million the second year. Obviously, beyond that could be subject to change in policy or whatever. But I know we're going to have several good programs come along,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...people are going to want to fund, and \$5 million is significant. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Beutler, on the advancement of LB 313.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, Senator Raikes, could I ask you a question? And I'm not sure this is a fair question to ask you just from the floor, because there is no reason you would necessarily know. But,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, will you yield?

SENATOR RAIKES: I will.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...some, in their minds, might make a distinction, for example, between schools interested in merger or unification who made substantial commitments to that process, thinking that perhaps these funds would be available to them. And then there might be another group of people out there who are not so far into the process that they're relying upon any particular incentives and would have no right to rely upon anything this Legislature has said to date. With respect to